

The background of the slide is a grayscale image of human chromosomes, showing various pairs of chromosomes in different stages of condensation and arrangement, typical of a karyotype.

HUMAN HEREDITY:
biology, anthropology and public health,
1940s – 70s

June, 20th – 21st 2011

Maison Suger
16-18 Rue Suger
75006 Paris

Workshop organized by **Soraya de Chadarevian** (UCLA, Senior Fellow *Research in Paris*/EHESS), in collaboration with **Claudine Cohen** (EHESS), **Jean Gayon** (IHPST, Paris 1, CNRS/ENS) and **Jean-Paul Gaudillière** (CERMES 3).

Monday, June 20th

13:30 Registration and coffee

14:00 Welcome and introduction

Session 1 : Genetic studies of human variation

chaired by Claudine Cohen (EHESS, Paris)

14:30 *Genetic studies of human variation after 1945: continuities and new departures*

Veronika Lipphardt (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)

15:15 Break

15:45 *Defining the 'racial purity of the Basques': sampling practices and visual representation in postwar blood-group anthropology*

Jenny Bangham (HPS, University of Cambridge)

16:30 *Standardizing variation: WHO technical working groups and human tissue collection, 1958-1968*

Joanna Radin (University of Pennsylvania/ Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

17:15 Discussion

Tuesday, June 21st

Session 2 : Heredity and public health

chaired by Jean Gayon (IHPST, Paris)

9:30 *Negotiating the rising curve: surveying stature and intelligence through time*
Edmund Ramsden (Center for Medical History, University of Exeter)

- 10:15 *Studying human populations post World War II*
Soraya de Chadarevian (UCLA/ EHESS)
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 *Gene entanglements: the emergence of genetic epidemiology*
Susanne Bauer (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)
- 12:15 Discussion
- 12:30 Lunch

Session 3 : Heredity and the clinic

chaired by Jean-Paul Gaudillière (CERMES 3, Paris)

- 14:00 *Before the gene: LeRoy Matthews and the Cleveland Comprehensive Treatment Program, 1957-1961*
Susan Lindee (University of Pennsylvania)
- 14:45 *Chromosomes and human bodies: early clinical cytogenetics and Down syndrome*
Maria Jesus Santesmases (Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales - CSIC, Madrid)
- 15:30 Break
- 16:00 *Making heredity visible: history of prenatal detection of aneuploidy*
Ilana Löwy (CERMES 3, Paris)
- 16:45 Discussion
- 17:00 Comments and final discussion

The conference brings together a group of scholars currently working on the history of human heredity in the decades following World War II. The history of heredity in this period has been dominated by accounts of the rise of molecular genetics. In contrast, the history of human heredity has remained understudied. Indeed, it is often suggested that the study of human heredity had discredited itself through the close association with eugenic practices and its implications with racial hygiene theories in Nazi Germany. More recently scholars have taken a fresh look at the broad spectrum of concerns surrounding human heredity in the postwar period.

In this meeting we will focus on two main areas of study. Firstly, we will consider the introduction of genetic technologies, especially cytogenetic techniques, in the clinic and the debated notions of diagnosis, risk and disease. Secondly, we are interested in genetic studies of human populations and the multiple concerns that informed them. Linking these two directions we will be interested in visualization and sample and data collecting practices that played a central role in clinical, epidemiological and anthropological studies of human heredity.

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